



# Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

March 2021





# From Our Pastor!

## Looking for a Sign is a Waste of Time

“And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, ‘When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.’ So he left them and departed” (Matthew 16:1-4).

Today many people are pointing to signs of the “end times” – wars, famine, disease, poverty, injustice, corruption, etc. We are told that our only hope is in Christ’s second coming, when he will put all things right. This may be a reasonable hope according to various scriptures. However, our current condition is not new or unique for humanity.

The Roman Empire, which controlled Israel during Jesus’ life on earth, was subject to corruption and chaos that surpasses what we experience today. Jesus himself was crucified to satisfy a political agenda, and in the Biblical and historical account of the early Church, we find that our spiritual ancestors were executed for their Christian belief.

Throughout history, we find needless wars, famines, pandemics, persecutions and torture across the social and political spectrum. Despite all of this, countless souls stood fast in the face of everything the world threw at them. Faithful Christians have always worked for the welfare of the world we live in, no matter the opposition.

As followers of a risen Lord, our lives should follow the path modeled by Jesus, who refused the demands of the world to perform up to their expectations. Placing ourselves on “idle,” while waiting for Christ’s return is a waste of time. Instead, it is our time to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and model an abundant life in the Kingdom, not a wasteful life worrying or hoarding stuff.

Our understanding comes from Scripture. Our communication is through prayer. Our guidance is from continually listening for the Holy Spirit’s prompting. Together these three elements guide us safely through a fallen world. When we pay attention to who we are and what we are to be about, signs and miracles do happen. The biggest most dynamic miracle we’ll ever witness is a life transformed through the saving Grace of Jesus Christ.

As individuals and as a Church body, we are to be found at work for the Kingdom of God when the Lord returns. Heaven forbid we are found at rest or perhaps even worse, seeking signs.



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### Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2020

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**Our Cover picture:  
Paula Nelson**

**Danby Community Church  
Admin Council Meeting  
February 8, 2021**

**Present:** Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Dave McDermitt, Charlene Testut, Katy Prince and Gloria Miller. Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 6:53pm.

**CLERK'S MINUTES:** Motion by Gloria, second by Sheila, to accept the minutes from January. Carried.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** Dave presented his report. Margie made the motion, second by Gloria, to approve the financial report, carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Paula states there are no financial problems. Motion by Gloria, second by Dave, to approve, carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Charlene states that some folks have requested a printed copy of the spending plan. Some will be printed off. Pastor Ed said we should go ahead and publish (by March 1 or before) the annual report now that all reports are in. Then the annual meeting will take place at a later date when it is safe after the pandemic.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Paula asked about second signers on church accounts. All DCC accounts have second signers but the Food Pantry is in question as it's not a church function. Because the Food Pantry is an outside organization that rents our building, it is the Food Pantry's responsibility to manage their own bank account. Margie stated that Joan had asked her years ago to be on that account and she will check with Joan that she still is listed. Margie says she received a large check in the mail today from friends in Florida who are enjoying Pastor Ed's weekly videos. Our congregation has gone national.

**Hospitality:** On March 9th the church building will be used by the "Four C's" pastor group.

**Spiritual Development:** Sheila reported that the Sunday AM study is still on 1st Samuel now and this is offered via Zoom on Tuesday evenings. The women's group begins "Pursuing God" after Ash Wednesday...this is Friday afternoons at 1 pm. Youth Church meets every other week, never on Communion Sunday, so Feb 14 and 28. Micro-ban is being used to sanitize the sanctuary. Prayer vigils will begin during Lent on Feb 19 and will be remote, focusing on the pandemic. Regular prayers hours continue Tuesday and Thursdays 5-6 pm in the sanctuary with Pastor Ed and Saturdays at 8 am.

**Trustees:** Charlene said Dick Hautala is plowing the church parking lot and Daniel Vorrasi does the snow shoveling. She said they did not ask that the Casella dumpster be moved across the parking lot and will have it returned to the original spot, closer to the kitchen door.

**Missions:** No report.

**SPOC:** Katy says the group met and an idea arose to give Bibles to parishioners needing them. It was decided to purchase 20 Bibles and memorial funds will be used for payment.

**SAP:** Pastor Ed said the group needs to meet and needs new members. We need to gear up for reopening after COVID and what to do differently with our service.

**Adjournment:** Gloria made the motion, seconded by Margie, to adjourn. Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk



*Do you have a question you would like to ask Pastor Ed? It can be about God, Jesus, the Bible, faith, the church, religion. Send your questions to Janet Gray @ [jsg4@cornell.edu](mailto:jsg4@cornell.edu) and your question (and answer) may appear in the next Danby Church News*

## Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

### **Lenten Prayer Vigils:**

Our second virtual Lenten prayer vigil for 2021 will be Friday, March 12th. Everyone whose email is on file with the Church will receive a notice with a link to information on the Church's website. Those without email will receive a phone invitation. The focus of prayer for this vigil will be renewal and revival in Christ's Church. Please join your fellow Christians as we pray for leaders everywhere, in every institution, for the well-being of all people.

### **Adult Small Groups:**

The Sunday morning Bible Study is studying I and II Samuel. We meet from 8:45 – 9:45 am. Those who are not able to attend the Sunday morning in-person session are welcome to attend a Zoom session on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Please contact Sheila Enstine at [ssenstine@gmail.com](mailto:ssenstine@gmail.com) or 229-4135 if you're interested in either meeting. The Women's mid-week study is using the second section of Margaret Feinberg's "Pursuing God Encountering His Love and Beauty in the Bible." The women meet on Fridays at 1:00 PM in the All Saint's room to allow for social distancing.

**Youth Church & Nursery:** Youth Church meets every other week and is comprised of two groups. The Middle School group is for young people ages 11-14 and the Elementary Group is for ages 6-10. Youth church does not meet on Communion Sundays, which are always on the first Sunday of the month. This allows everyone to participate in the Lord's Supper. Also, the best way for Children to learn about the Lord's Supper is by participating in it, with their parents and caregivers "teaching" in the pews. Youth Church then meets every other Sunday after Communion Sunday. In March, we will have sessions on Sunday the 14th and 28th.

The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five.

**Ed Talks:** Pastor Ed produces "Ed Talks," brief versions (eight to ten minutes) of his Sunday sermons. They are available on the Church's website, [www.danbychurch.org](http://www.danbychurch.org) (click on Ed Talks on the green ribbon at the top) and on the Church's Facebook page.

### **Prayer Opportunities:**

Contact Judy Cuyle at [gnatcat87@yahoo.com](mailto:gnatcat87@yahoo.com) or call 279-5089 if you would like to participate in the prayer chain or if you have a prayer request. In-person (socially distanced) prayer meetings are held Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 PM.

### **Safe Sanctuary:**

Our annual Safe Sanctuary workshop is postponed until April of 2021.

**Congregational Care:** Please continue to call and email your church family or make "safe" visits. Especially remember our elderly or disabled members who need that one-on-one contact. A list of "shut-ins" is available from Janet Gray.



### **Missions Report** *by Judy and Dale Horton*

The Danby Community Church Missions Committee is always looking for ways to reach out to those in need. If you know of a special need please feel free to call Judy or Dale and we will try to hook you up with the right persons!



A special thank you to Dick Hautala for keeping the church parking lot free of snow this winter and Dan Vorassi for keeping the sidewalks and entrances free of snow and safe to walk on.

**Did you know we are now on Facebook? You can access us from your Facebook page (just search for Danby Community Church) or press the Facebook link on our church website: [WWW.DANBYCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.DANBYCHURCH.ORG). You don't need to have a Facebook account to see our Facebook page, but you will need a Facebook account if you would want to "like" our page or post a comment.**





## Keeping Your Ministry “Edge” Sharp

from JOHN KIMBALL, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT, 4Cs

We like things to stay the same. Consistency breeds predictability and comfort. The problem with getting comfortable in ministry is that the world around us is always changing. Culture is always morphing whether we like it or not. The population of our community is changing through transitions like aging and more. And if we’re truly living out the Gospel, our congregations should also be changing with new souls joining who bring new perspectives, gifts, and ministry passions.

Church Development is not just about revitalization, it’s actually more about remaining vitally connected and fruitful in ministry. Like honing the edge of a master craftsman’s blade, it’s about keeping a church’s ministry “edge” sharp. It’s about building principle-based discipleship pathways that can easily change tactically to remain engaged with those we are reaching. It’s about growing harvest-oriented leaders who keep the congregation connected with her mission and mission field. It’s about innovation in evangelism techniques. It’s about deepening each member’s walk with Jesus personally and corporately. It’s about keeping our intercession efforts on target and effective. Every church needs Church Development.

Church Development forces us to evaluate everything and to make decisive changes in the way we do life and ministry together to keep us vitally engaged in Jesus’ mission. Church Development helps prevent us from becoming internally focused and losing our missional edge over time.



St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



A great object lesson presented by **Old St. Paddy**

# Welcome HOME

a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am

Sunday Adult Education Class on Romans @ 8:45am

Youth Church @ 10:30am

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Communion, Conversation and Prayer 5-6pm

Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm

Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am

Women’s Bible Study, Fridays @ 1pm, resumes Friday, February 19th

## Zoom! (February 10, 2021) By Gail Mazourek

If you met Jesus on Zoom, would you recognize him? “Hey! I never thought you’d show up here,” we might say. Or would we tape over the small round camera access portal on our laptop and hide ourselves? With Zoom’s phone access, you still hear the voices. Maybe you’d clam up and think; I’m not dressed well enough to talk with and appear before one so grand.

Jesus didn’t put himself on a pedestal, so we’d look up to him. His heightened elevation was the cruel cross, and for our sake, he became our portal to heaven. We know He ‘Zoomed’ to join his Father in Heaven to make a case for us, his believers and followers.

Psalm 139: 8, Romans 10: 6, Romans 8: 34

During more than a year of the Covid-19 climate, many of us have had reason to use Zoom. My daughters additionally use Telehealth for clients where they live in Buffalo. I’ve attended DAR meetings on Zoom. A couple of family meetings were rife with laughter and gladness to chat and see each other. We didn’t dress up special for it, but everyone was special.

Oh, but there was an occasion to attend my late brother-in-law’s probate hearing in a California court for my husband, Adolf, who does not use computers. It put me in control!

Why are you smiling? Let me answer; because you know I zoomed right in on that!

I cared about what my husband wore before the Zoom court. I believed his suit, shirt, and tie, which he wore for our wedding vows 21½ years ago, needed an outing. I was adamant, and I assured him the clothing still fits. Perhaps he protested because he could, and he enjoyed it. In the end, he acquiesced, and the suit coat looked fine with blue jeans. That’s what won him over when I remarked that the Zoom frame records only from the waist up in the position I set it. I trimmed his eyebrows to diminish the German Kaiser look! We were ready, and he presented himself before a Zoom court. There were eight attendees and one judge. It finished in 45 minutes, and all was well.

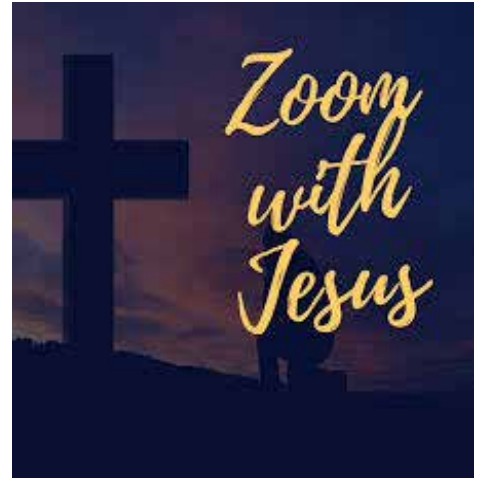
Herr Busse remarked afterward, “I looked as good as the judge! Did you notice that no one else dressed well for it?” he asked.

“Of course, I have eyes,” said I.

The same subject came up several days in a row after that, on how glad he was that he made a respectable appearance from 2,700 miles away. I remember the distance well, having driven there and back three times many years ago. I never plan on it again. A faster way is nautical and is 2,014 miles as the crow or an airplane flies. Zoom is instant.

John 3: 12-15, John 6:62-64, John 20: 17, 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18,

Can Zoom prepare us for the ascension, the last one where true believers are going along for the glide? Do I need to dress well for it? Or will He take me Just as I Am? We won’t have time to change our clothes and comb our hair. If these mattered, He would have told us. We don’t know when to be ready, so we must prepare our hearts and minds with scripture and prayer for an instant flight to Zoom with Jesus.



### Judy’s Joke Corner

Faith will sometimes make you feel like a fool ..... until it starts to rain.  
Signed: NOAH

Two elephants were walking down the ramp from Noah’s arc. One said to the other “that’s the worst cruise we’ve ever been on... it rained the whole time we were gone.”

# LENTEN PRAYER VIGIL



## Lenten Prayer Vigils 2021

The second in our series of three Lenten Prayer Vigils is scheduled for Friday, March 12th, 2021.

All of these vigils are remote, meaning participants are not asked to physically go to the church to pray. Instead, you can pray from home or from work or even from your car if you happen to be on the road that day.

The focus for the March vigil is renewal and revival in Christ's Church. That is because a national and world-wide revival of faith in God, belief in Jesus, and godly living – including acts of justice and mercy – depends on repentance and renewal in the Church (2 Chronicles 7:14).

E. M. Bounds, a pastor and advocate of prayer during the Civil War era said, “We can never expect to grow in the likeness of our Lord unless we follow His example and give more time to communion with the Father. A revival of real praying would produce a spiritual revolution.”

Another prayer advocate Richard Halverson has said, “Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer. No continent – no nation – no organization – no city – no office. There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out.”

Each vigil begins at midnight Friday morning and ends at midnight the following Saturday morning. We hope to stay vigilant in prayer during all eight watches of the day and night.

The “prayer watch” is an adaptation of the Jewish and Roman traditions of dividing the day into periods of time when sentinels kept watch over their posts. Likewise, prayer warriors keep watch in the spirit realm, for our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers and principalities of this present darkness (Eph. 6:12).

The Church will send invitations to everyone for whom we have email addresses or phone numbers as well as create an event on the Church's Facebook page and on our website. You will be able to use these connections to indicate your interest and the time you will be praying. We will provide a schedule and prayer suggestions to those who are interested.

Join your sisters and brothers on March 12th as we intercede for the renewal and revival of the Church, so that the world might be awakened to the truth of Jesus.

This month's issue of the Danby Church News is on the web at <https://www.danbychurch.org/news.html>!



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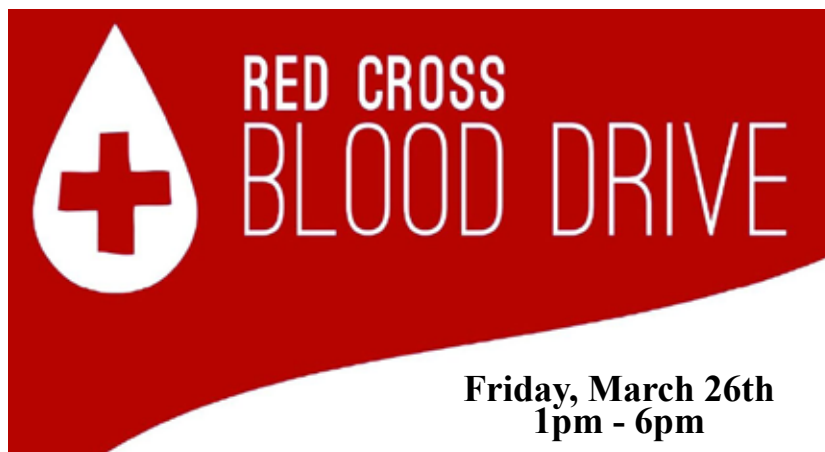


## Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in March!

Lenten Prayer Vigils

Friday, March 12th



Friday, March 26th  
1pm - 6pm